

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An apparatus for conveying signals between a  
communications card and a signal utilization device or  
network. In one form (Figs. 1,2), structures are provided  
for receiving one or more RJ series plugs and for making  
electrical connection with at the contacts on the plug and  
conveying any signals on the contacts to a communications  
device such as a telephone, facsimile machine, modem, or a  
local area network adapter. A body (102) includes one or  
10 more recesses (106) which receive the plug. An expandable  
and stretchable membrane (114) isolates the contacts in the  
plug from electrical contact with an object in a surrounding  
environment such that passage of current from one or more of  
the electrical contacts to an object present in the  
surrounding environment is prevented. Also provided (Figs.  
7, 14) is a replaceable direct access arrangement (151, 258)  
which is replaceably held within the communications device  
(150, 250). Both the structures providing the receptacles  
and the direct access arrangement are easily removable in  
20 case of damage or if other functions are desired. The  
replaceable direct access arrangement allows operation in  
countries having different telecommunications standards and  
allows operation with many different communications devices.  
Alternative structures for allowing connection to RJ series  
25 plugs are described. Wireless communication structures are  
also described.